

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sibthorpe, U.S. Patent No. 3,299,417. This rejection is not believed to be proper with respect to these claims as amended herein.

Independent claim 1, from which Claim 2 depends, recites a first pipe through which liquid passes with this pipe being contained within a second pipe having an inside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the first pipe to provide an annular through passage surrounding the first pipe. It further recites a fitting connecting the first pipe to a liquid source with the fitting having at least one port connected to the annular through passage via an annular passage surrounding the through passage of the first pipe.

This structure is neither disclosed nor suggested in Sibthorpe. The fitting of Sibthorpe, as shown in Fig. 1, is connected to the passage 4 and connects this passage to a monitoring and alarm device 22. This fitting does not also connect the tube or pipe 1 to a liquid source as recited in independent Claim 1.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Webb, U.S. Patent No. 5,831,149. This rejection is not believed to be proper with respect to these claims as amended herein.

Webb suffers from the same deficiency as discussed above with respect to Sibthorpe. Specifically, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a coupling connecting a first pipe to a liquid source. Reference in this regard made to Fig. 2 and coupling 204 shown therein.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Roach et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,072,622. This rejection is not believed to be proper with respect to the claims as amended herein.

Roach et al. suffers from the same deficiencies as Sibthorpe and Webb, as discussed above. Specifically, reference is made to Fig. 1 of this reference wherein the fitting 38 is connected to a leak detection system 36. This fitting is in no way also adapted for connecting the pipe to a liquid source.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roach et al., U.S. Patent 5,072,622, in view of WEbb, U.S. Patent 5,831,149. This rejection is not believed to be proper with respect to the claims as amended herein.

As discussed above, neither of these references suggest a fitting that connects a first pipe at one end to a liquid source with the other end of the pipe being connected to an above ground liquid dispenser, as expressly recited in dependent Claim 7, with the fitting also having a first part connected to means for detecting liquid leakage and having a second part adapted for removal of liquid leakage, as recited in independent Claim 4, which may be a liquid container, as recited in dependent Claim 6.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration of claims 1-7 as presently constituted with a view to allowance is earnestly solicited.

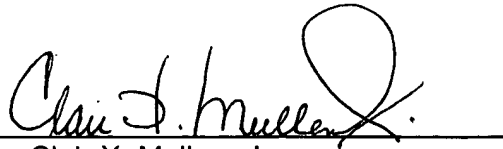
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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